DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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1. COUNTRY: ARGENTINA
2. SUBJECT: Political Attitudes (U)
3. ISC NUMBER: N/A
4. DATE OF INFORMATION: 26 Aug 74 - 15 Jul 75
5. PLACE AND DATE OF ACQ:
6. EVALUATION: SOURCE _____ INFORMATION _____
7. SOURCE: Various Argentine Air Force Officers in grades from Brigadier Mayor (MGEN) to Captain

8. REPORT NUMBER: (b)(3):10 USC
9. DATE OF REPORT: 1975, Jul 21
10. NO. OF PAGES: 2
11. REFERENCES: (b)(3):10 USC 424
12. ORIGINATOR:
13. PREPARED BY: (b)(3):10 USC 424
14. APPROVING AUTHORITY:

15. SUMMARY:

~~(S)~~ This is the final report in answer to (b)(3):10 USC 424 and an update of IR (b)(3):10 USC 42 concerning the attitudes of the Argentine Air Force (AAF) officers towards the government of Mrs. Peron and the AAF role in combatting terrorism.

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1. ~~(S)~~ During the current period of political crisis it has become apparent that the three armed services commanders-in-chief have agreed that all actions taken by the armed services will be in concert. This is demonstrated by the recent series of meetings the three CINCs have had with Mrs. Peron. Civilian sources have reported that the three CINCs were a significant factor in influencing the recent governmental cabinet changes which included the removal of Lopez Rega from positions of visible power. Military officers, and especially Air Force officers, however, will not discuss the position or the thinking of the armed forces.

2. ~~(S)~~ It is believed that their commitment to constitutional processes

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~~CLASSIFIED BY~~ (b)(3):10 USC 424
~~EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF E.O. 11652 EXEMPTION CATEGORY~~
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18. ATTACHMENT DATA:

NONE

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DD FORM 1 SEP 62 1396

REPLACES DA FORM 1048, 1 AUG 60, OPNAV FORM 3820 (Rev 10-61), AF FORM 112, JUL 61, WHICH MAY BE USED UNTIL 1 JAN 63.

remains firm, though it is apparent that no one believes that Mrs. Peron's government will survive. Prior to the crisis, when Air Force officers were inclined to be more talkative, the consensus was that if the Peron government disintegrated the armed forces would support an orderly succession of power and enter the scene only to restore order in case of anarchy and chaos. Even then they would stay out of the government offices themselves even if it meant directing a civilian government from behind the scenes. It is believed that even in this crisis this commitment has not changed.

3. ~~(C)~~ With regard to Air Force participation in counter-guerrilla operations, their participation to date has been limited to air logistical support of the Army campaign in Tucuman province which has been going on now for six months. The Air Force does, however, want a larger role. In June of 1975 they asked the US for the loan of a C-130 gunship for use in the campaign area.

4. ~~(C)~~ Air Force officers', as reported in IR (b)(3):10 USC 424 have not changed their hard line attitudes about the treatment which political kidnappers and assassins deserve.

COMMENT: (U) Recommend close out of (b)(3):10 USC 424 Changes in Air Force attitudes and intentions will be reported as a matter of normal and continuing interest.

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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